

U.S. missile shield politicized, poll says

by UPI

PRAGUE, Czech Republic -- A poll indicated most people in the Czech Republic and Russia have a negative view of U.S. plans to develop a missile shield in Central Europe. A poll conducted by the deputy of the right-wing Czech ruling Civic Democrat party, David Seich, suggested Russian President Vladimir Putin largely politicized the issue, The Prague Daily Monitor reported Wednesday. The poll showed nearly 75 percent of Czechs said they oppose the installation of the U.S. missile shield, despite pledges by Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolánek to reach an agreement with U.S. officials on the program. Nearly half of all Russians said they oppose the program as well, the poll indicated. The United States says the Czech Republic and Poland are geographically located in ideal positions for a U.S. missile defense system. The poll interviewed 850 Russians but didn't indicate a margin of error or demographic information.

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